

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 13, 2010. In that Office Action, claims 1, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22 were examined, and claim 1 was rejected, and claim 8 was objected to. Claims 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22 were allowed. Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22 with appreciation. With respect to the rejected claim, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 allegedly because “applicant’s method steps are not tied to a particular machine and do not perform a transformation.” *Office Action, 08/13/2010, at 2*. Further, claim 8 was objected to “as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.” *Office Action, 08/13/2010, at 3*. Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Amendment and Response, claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 15, and 22 have been amended. Claims 2-7, 10, 14, 17, and 21 remain cancelled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22 remain present for examination. This application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

The Specification has been amended as noted above. This Amendment neither adds new matter nor requires an additional search by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the above-identified amendment to the Specification.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 101: Claim 1

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 allegedly because “applicant’s method steps are not tied to a particular machine and do not perform a transformation. Thus, the claims are non-statutory.” *Office Action, 08/13/2010, at 2*.

Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection. However, in the interest of forwarding the prosecution of this application to allowance, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite in part:

In an initiating system, a computer-implemented method for establishing a new group identity, the method comprising:

receiving a selection of group identity information for a first group to include in a first group identity information document for disclosure to a first receiving system;

generating, by the initiating system, a first group-signed group identity information document comprising the group identity information for the first group, an embedded use policy that expresses a privacy policy providing instructions as to how the group identity information for the first group may be used, wherein the embedded use policy is stored with the group identity information for the first group, at least a first key, and a first group identity information document signature signed by an owner of the first group using a second key associated with the first key, wherein the second key is a private key of the first group and is owned by the first group owner;

....

Claim 1, supra (as amended) (emphasis added).

In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. This claim is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Because claim 8 depends on allowable base claim 1, claim 8 is also in condition for allowance. As such, any remaining arguments supporting the rejections of these claims are not acquiesced to even though they are not addressed herein. Claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection – Claim 8

Claim 8 was objected to as “being dependent upon a rejected base claim . . .” *Office Action, 08/13/2010, at 3*. As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended and is in condition for allowance. Because claim 8 depends on allowable base claim 1, claim 8 is also in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claim 8. The allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter: Claims 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, & 22

Applicants acknowledge the allowable subject matter of claims 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22 in the subject application by the Examiner with appreciation. *See Office Action, 08/13/2010, at 3*. While Applicants have presented minor amendments to claims 9, 11, 15, and 22, these amendments are intended to improve form. As such, the allowance of claims 9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-20, and 22 is respectfully requested. This application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

This Amendment and Response fully responds to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 13, 2010. It is recognized that the Office Action may contain arguments and rejections that are not directly addressed by this Amendment and Response because they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, the failure, if any, of this Amendment and Response to directly address an argument and/or comment raised in the Office Action should not be taken as an indication that Applicants believe the argument and/or comment has merit. Additionally, the failure, if any, to address statements and/or comments made in the Office Action does not mean that Applicants acquiesce to such statements and/or comments. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other elements, not discussed in this Amendment and Response, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

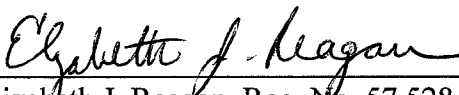
It is believed that no additional fees are due with this Amendment and Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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